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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 3 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 2 July 1997, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tuluy TANÇ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 2 July 1997 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 23 June 1997 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contains allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus" (A/51/932-S/1997/490).

Similar allegations, which are put forward to uphold the myth that the Greek Cypriot side has sovereignty over the whole of the island, have been amply dealt with and refuted in my previous successive communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 16 June 1997 (A/51/926-S/1996/470, annex). I will, therefore, confine myself to reiterating that flights within the airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place within the competence and jurisdiction of the authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and the Greek Cypriot side has no say in the matter whatsoever.

It is regrettable that on the eve of the upcoming intercommunal talks, to be held in New York from 9 to 13 July 1997, the Greek Cypriot side persists in its campaign of harmful rhetoric. Evidently, the Greek Cypriot side is far from coming to terms with the concept of power-sharing with the Turkish Cypriot side on the basis of equality, as called for in successive United Nations resolutions. I trust that all concerned will impress upon the Greek Cypriot side that this is the time when common sense and realism, not propaganda, should prevail, so that the upcoming talks will produce the desired results.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus